



# ***Effects of substance abuse in Canada***

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## **Impact on Canada's economy**

- The estimated cost of substance abuse (alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs) in Canada in 1992 was conservatively estimated at \$18.45 billion.

## **Impact on domestic and international productivity**

- Alcohol and illicit drugs alone accounted for \$4.9 billion in lost productivity (0.8% of GDP).

## **Impact on Health Care**

- Substance abuse was responsible for one in five deaths and almost 10% of hospital admissions in Canada in 1995-96. 50% of new HIV cases and 80% of new Hepatitis C cases are attributable to injection drug use.
- Alcohol abuse accounted for over 1.1M hospital days annually.

## **Impact on crime**

- A study released on May 1, 2002 by the CCSA reported that between 40% and 50% of crimes can be attributed to at least one psychoactive substance (either alcohol or drugs)





## Why the need for a CECA?

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- Addictions programs have experienced a great deal of change in the past five to ten years
- Rapid social and economic change, restructuring within government, provincial health care reform, budget reductions, have deeply affected both research and programming.
- In the fall of 2000, CECA's founding members' came together as an informal gathering of addiction CEO's, and commissioned a discussion paper to reflect the current literature and thinking on the status of addictions within the Canadian context. The paper formed the basis for a meeting of invited stakeholders held in Winnipeg in December 2000.
- In February 2001, a report entitled, "*Towards a New National Focus and Drug Strategy: Synthesis of the December 5, 2000 Symposium,*" was prepared by the hosting agencies and circulated to the federal, provincial, and territorial governments.



Canadian Executive Council on Addictions  
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A forum to influence national public policy  
related to addictions





## *Since that time...*

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- Hosted its first national reception at World Forum on Drugs
- Presented to the Standing Committee on Finance in 2002
- Presented to the Parliamentary Committee on the Non Medical Use of Drugs
- Developed a strategic workplan and government relations strategy
- Identified specific deliverables and activities to pursue





## *Projects underway*

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- Developed and currently implementing a national prevalence drug and alcohol survey in partnership with most provincial governments and Health Canada (completion Spring 2004)
- Development of strategy to address comparability of provincial student use surveys (due Fall 2003)
- Co-hosted national conference with CCSA and CIHR (INMHA) in Fall 2003.
- Developing Communications Strategy (2003/04)





## *In summary.....*

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### **CECA:**

- Represents a dynamic, efficient and cost effective partnership
- Recognizes the need for strong, proactive engagement at all orders of government including federal, provincial, regional and municipal.
- Supports a more substantive Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) management of the addictions issue at all levels including by Ministers of Health and Justice.



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